Joseph C. Brown
Appointed by the State of Missouri in 1837 to run out their north boundary

George B. Sargent
Iowa Surveyor General March 1851 to April 1853.

In 1838 (Roads)
Width of territorial roads at seventy feet.

In 1843 (Roads)
Set a sixty feet width for county roads. The width of the territorial roads remained at seventy feet.

In 1851 (Roads)
"County and state roads hereafter established must be sixty-six feet in width, unless otherwise specifically directed, but the court may for good reasons fix a different width not less than thirty-three feet."

In 1873 (Roads)
Minimum statutory road width revised from 33 feet to 40 feet.

In 1951 (Roads)
Repealed the sixty-six feet and minimum road width requirements. The reason that the width of the road is determined by statute, unless otherwise fixed by the establishing body.

In 1983 (Roads)
Allows owners of land without a way to it to condemn a public way, not exceeding forty feet in width.

In 1992 (Roads)
The right-of-way for all secondary roads is sixty-six feet in width, unless otherwise specified by the county board of supervisors of the respective counties.

County roads in Iowa have thus predominantly been established by easement on...
section lines at a sixty-six foot width but exceptions can occur.

Iowa established the required elected office of county surveyor in 1838. It became optional in

1911. In 1816
Sullivan line - "the old northwest corner of Missouri", thence ran east to the Des Moines River.

In 1838
Iowa Territory was formed between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers up to 49 degrees north latitude.

In 1840
Residents of the Iowa Territory voted against statehood.

In 1842
Residents of the Iowa Territory again voted against statehood.

In 1844 to 1845
Residents of the Iowa Territory voted for statehood. The territory residents rejected the amended borders.

In 1846
Agreed on compromised borders of 43 degrees 30 minutes north latitude on the north and the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers on the west.

Iowa to Statehood
Iowa became the 29th state on December 28,1846.

The Fifth Principal Meridian (Iowa)
It begins at Township 77 north, above the bend of the Mississippi River in Iowa. It terminates at its intersection with the Mississippi River in township 91 north.

The Indian boundary run out by...
John C. Sullivan

"old northwest corner" is marked with?
Large solid cast iron pillar, weighing between fifteen and sixteen hundred pounds, four feet six inches long, squaring twelve inches at its base and eight inches at its top. This pillar was deeply and legibly marked with the words (strongly cast into the iron) "Missouri" on its south side, "Iowa" on its north side, and "State Line" on the east."

In 1850
William Dewey for Iowa and Robert Walker for Missouri reestablished the Iowa-Missouri boundary.

William Dewey for Iowa and Robert Walker for Missouri set every ten miles.
Solid pillars of cast iron weighing each between three and four hundred pounds with the word "Boundary" facing both the east and the west, and the word "Iowa" facing the north and the word "Missouri" facing the south.

William Dewey for Iowa and Robert Walker used
Burt's Solar Compass with a telescope.

In 1896
The United States Supreme Court ordered the retracement of the boundary especially between the 50th and 55th mile posts.

Iowa-Minnesota Boundary
Is along the 43 degrees 30 minute parallel of latitude.

Who did the work for the Iowa-Minnesota Boundary, and when?
Captain Andrew Talcott in 1852 and approved in 1853.

Iowa East and West Boundaries
Are water boundaries, subject to positional changes.

Center of Section in Iowa
Federal Act of February 11, 1805, states the center of a regular section is found by intersecting straight lines between opposite quarter corners.

Loughborough's instructions

Center of section should be established at midpoint on the east-west centerline, and that the center of quarter sections should be established in the same manner.

In 1856 to 1863
The 200 copies of Loughborough's instructions apparently were distributed to county surveyors asking how to subdivide sections until the supply ran out.

355.3 Rules.
Pursuant to chapter 542B, the engineering and land surveying examining board may adopt rules consistent with the rules prescribed by the Acts of Congress and the instructions of the United States Secretary of the Interior.

Gerke vs. Lucas in 1894
"intersecting method" versus "bisecting method". The Iowa Supreme Court held for the "intersecting method."

Poleske vs. Jones in 1921
"intersecting method" versus "bisecting method". The Iowa Supreme Court affirmed. Poleske raised the issue of adverse possession in his appeal to the Iowa Supreme Court but could not prove hostile possession of the disputed strip long enough to satisfy the required ten year period.

The soil in beds of all meandered and navigable streams belongs
to... The state.

The Iowa First Correction Line
Runs from the Mississippi River to the Missouri River between Townships 78 North and 79 North.

The Iowa Second Correction Line
Runs from the Mississippi River to the Missouri River between Townships 88 North and 89 North.

The Iowa Third Correction Line
Runs from the Mississippi River west through Range 10 West between Townships 98 North and 99 North.

The Iowa/Minnesota Boundary
The northward termination of Township 100 North. Sections 1 through 6 do not exist in these townships except in Ranges 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 West.

Corner Monuments in Iowa
Most corners set in Iowa were posts in earth mounds with pits nearby where the earth was obtained for the mounds. (Southwestern Iowa encouraged the use of stone monuments.)

Stones set by George B. Sargent
Stones, must, in every instance, be distinctly "notched" (with a chisel or other proper instrument) as directed in your printed instructions for posts. At quarter section corners ¼ must be plainly cut upon the opposite sides of the stone, and these sides set facing thetwo sections between which such quarter section corner exists.

Riparian owners take to
The high-water mark.

You are also to meander, all lakes and deep ponds of area of Twenty-five acres and upwards.

Meandered Rivers and Streams of Iowa
1. Mississippi river. Full reach along state boundary. 2. Missouri river. Full reach along state boundary. 3. Big Sioux river. Full reach along state boundary. 4. Des Moines river. From Mississippi river to the junction of the east and west branches. The west branch to west line T95N, R32W, Palo Alto county, due south of Emmetsburg. The east branch to north line T95N, R29W, Kossuth county, near the north edge of Algona. 5. Iowa river. From Mississippi river to west line T81N, R11W, Iowa county, due north of Ladora. 6. Cedar river. From Iowa river to west line T89N, R13W, Black Hawk county, at the east edge of Cedar Falls. 7. Raccoon river. From Des Moines river to west line of Polk county. 8. Wapsipinicon river. From Mississippi river to west line T86N, R6W, Linn county, northwest of Central City. 9. Maquoketa river. From Mississippi river to west line T84N, R3E, Jackson county, due north of Maquoketa. 10. Skunk river. From Mississippi river to north line of Jefferson county, at the southwest edge of Coppock. 11. Turkey river. From Mississippi river to west line T95N, R7W, Fayette county, northwest of Clermont. 12. Nishnabotna river. From Missouri river to north line T67N, R42W, Fremont county, northeast of Hamburg. 13. Upper Iowa river. From Mississippi river to west line Section 28, T100N, R4W, Allamakee county, about two and one-half miles upstream from its mouth. 14. Little Maquoketa river. From Mississippi river to west line Section 35, T90N, R2E, Dubuque county, about one mile upstream from its mouth.

Iowa Geodetic Survey (What)
Carried out section corner recovery work.

Iowa Geodetic Survey (Who)
John S. Dodds, Iowa State College, was its State Director.

Iowa Geodetic Survey (How)
Primarily financed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Iowa Geodetic Survey (When)
Existed from the mid 1930s to the early 1940s.

County Engineer Office:
Section corner ties, section corner certificates, Iowa Geodetic Survey corner recovery records, preliminary road surveys, road plans, right-of-way maps, copies of original government plats, county surveyor records, road establishment and vacation records, aerial photographs, county resurvey records, road maps, county maps, drainage district data, railroad strip maps, county GPS control, flood zone maps.

County Recorder Office:
Deeds, contracts for deed, plats of survey, plats for subdivisions, acquisition plats, section corner certificates, miscellaneous surveys, fence viewer orders, fence agreements, affidavits explanatory of title, condemnation records, county surveyor records, copies of original government plats, copies of original entries, annexation records, railroad land grants.

County Auditor Office:
Ownership plats, real estate transfers, road establishment records, drainage district data, railroad strip maps, county supervisor minutes, county surveyor records, copies of original government plats, county subdivision regulations, flood zone maps.

City Engineer Office:
Street records, property corner ties, subdivision plats, city maps, miscellaneous improvement

plans, elevation datums.

City Clerk Office:
Subdivision regulations, zoning requirements, public utility easements, street records, subdivision plats, corporate limits, annexation plats and descriptions, flood zone maps.

Iowa Department of Transportation District Office:
Right-of way plats, section corner ties, road plans, acquisition plats, right-of-way strip maps.

Clerk of District Court Office:
Court degrees on disputed corners and boundaries, condemnation proceedings, names changes, probate proceedings.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Office:
Aerial photographs, wetland delineation maps.

State Archivist Office:
Original government plats and field notes and copies thereof. (Note: Iowa Code Section 9G.8 designates the responsibility of keeping these records to the Secretary of State but the actual keeping of these records has been transferred to the state archivist office.)

Corps of Engineers:
Stream channel meander lines, levee surveys, flood zone maps, government land boundary plats and descriptions, aerial photographs.

Local Abstract Office:
Almost anything in the public record relating to chain of title on specific local real estate.

Local Land Surveyor Office:
Personal knowledge of local survey conditions.